

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-11. (Canceled)

Claim 12. (Original) An absorbent material having a density of from about 0.25 to about 0.5 g/cc and a suppleness of greater than about 0.7 g⁻¹, the material consisting essentially of:

a) from about 40 weight percent to about 90 weight percent cellulosic fibers at least some of which fibers are obtained from pulp having a Kappa value of less than about 100, wherein at least some of the cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 65 percent; and

b) from about 10 weight percent to about 60 weight percent superabsorbent material.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 that has normalized drying power energy of at least about 6000 ergs/g.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 at has normalized wicking energy of at least about 3000 ergs/g.

Claims 15-17. (Canceled)

Claim 18. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 wherein the cellulosic fibers have a relative crystallinity of less than about 60 percent.

Claims 19-20. (Canceled)

Claim 21. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 wherein at least some of the cellulosic fibers are obtained from pulp having a Kappa value of less than about 75.

Claims 22-24. (Canceled)

Claim 25. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 wherein at least some of the cellulosic fibers have been made by a process that includes the step of treating a liquid suspension of pulp at a temperature of from about 15°C to about 60°C with an aqueous alkali metal salt solution having an alkali metal salt concentration of from about 2 weight percent to about 25 weight percent of said solution for a period of time ranging from about 5 minutes to about 60 minutes.

Claims 26-29. (Canceled)

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Claim 30. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 having a basis weight of from about 100 g/m² to about 250 g/m².

Claim 31. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 having a basis weight of from about 350 g/m² to about 450 g/m².

Claim 32. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 having a density of from about 0.30 to about 0.45 g/cc.

Claim 33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 that contains from about 20 to about 40 weight percent superabsorbent material.

Claim 35. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 that has normalized drying power energy of at least 7000 ergs/g.

Claims 36-38. (Canceled)

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Claim 39. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 that has normalized wicking energy of at least 3500 ergs/g.

Claims 40-44. (Canceled)

Claim 45. (Previously presented) The material of claim 12 that has normalized wicking energy of at least 3500 ergs/g.

Claims 46-47. Canceled)

Claim 48. (Previously presented) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent material of claim 12.

Claims 49-50. (Canceled)